

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 880

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MASS, GR

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF ANSWERS PARLIAMENTARY
QUESTION ON RESUMPTION OF GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REFS: A. ATHENS 632 (NOTAL; B. ATHENS 759 (NOTAL)

1. DEFMIN AVEROFF'S WRITTEN REPLY TO THE PARLIAMENTARY
QUESTION POSED BY CU/NF DEPUTY KONIOTAKIS (SEE REFTEL)
APPEARED IN JANUARY 28 PARLIAMENTARY MINUTES. AFTER
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT DURING THE "TIME OF THE DICTATORSHIP"
LIBERAL MEMBERS OF THE US CONGRESS HAD PRESSED FOR
SUSPENSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AVEROFF ATTRIBUTED
TO THIS PRESSURE THE DECLINE OF MAP FROM \$71 MILLION IN
1967 TO \$10 MILLION IN 1972 AND THE ACTION OF THE
"DICTATORSHIP" OFFICIALLY TO RENOUNCE AID AS OF
JANUARY 1, 1973. HE CONTRASTED THESE FIGURES WITH MAP
FOR TURKEY OF \$80 MILLION TO \$100 MILLION OVER THE
SAME PERIOD. THIS, HE INDICATED, WAS REASON FOR
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GREAT DIFFERENCE IN GREEK AND TURKISH PRUCHASES

OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN 1975 (E.E. \$435 MILLION VS \$17 MILLION), AND HE ADDED THAT GREEK PURCHASES OF "US FIGHTER, TRANSPORT AND TRAINING" AIRCRAFT ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS DISPARITY. HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT EXISTING INVENTORY OF EQUIPMENT OF US ORIGIN NECESSITATED CONTINUED ACQUISITION, BY FMS CREDIT OR CASH PURCHASES, OF SPARE PARTS, AMMUNITION, AND NEW MODERN EQUIPMENT.

3. COMPARING THE MILITARY CREDITS PROVIDED BY FRANCE WITH FMS CREDIT FROM THE USG, HE DATED \$350 MILLION CREDIT FROM START OF GREEK-TURKISH TENSIONS IN THE SPRING OF 1974 AND ASSERTED THAT, CONTRARY TO REPORTS, TERMS UNDER WHICH FRENCH CREDITS GIVEN NOT LESS FAVORABLE THAN FMS CREDIT TERMS (WHICH REACHED 9 PCT IN 1974, HE NOTED, NOT 5 PCT AS SAID BY QUESTIONER). HE COMPARED AMORTIZATION OF FRENCH LOANS WITH FMS CREDITS, POINTING OUT THAT FORMER WAS STATED TO BE 7 1/2 YEARS, OR 15 SIX-MONTHS INSTALLMENTS FROM DATE OF DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT, BUT THAT DELIVERY EFFECTED TWO OR THREE YEARS AFTER PLACING ORDER. HE FELT THAT IN FINAL ANALYSIS THIS CORRELATED WELL WITH 10 YEAR AMORTIZATION OF FMS CREDIT.

3 . FINAL POINT WENT TO SUBSTANCE OF QUESTION "WHETHER GOVERNMENT PLANS TO DO ANYTHING FOR RESUMPTION OF US GRANT ASSISTANCE." AVEROFF INFORMED PARLIAMENT THAT A LIST HAD BEEN COMPILED OF EQUIPMENT OF US ORIGIN REQUIRED BY GOG AND "WHICH WE WILL TRY TO OBTAIN IN THE FORM OF GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE, OR BY PAYING IN SYMBOLIC PRICES IF EXISTING AMERICAN LEGISLATION POSES AN INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE TO THE RESUMPTION OF GRANT AID BECAUSE OF GREECE'S PAST OFFICIAL RENUNCIATION OF GRANT AID.

4. COMMENT: DEFMIN AVEOFF HAS NOW GONE ON RECORD OFFICIALLY STATING THAT GOG IS SEEKING THE RESUMPTION OF GRANT AID FROM THE USG, THUS MAKING OF THE LISTS, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR GRANT AID.

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